

April 22, 2019

The special meeting of the Decorah City Council was called to order by Mayor Borowski at 7:30 a.m.

Members present: Randy Schissel, Andy Carlson, Kirk Johnson, Steve Luse, Ross Hadley, Johanna Bergen, Dan Bellrichard

Motion by Schissel, second by Luse, to approve Resolution 2952 opposing HF773 (formerly HSB165) and SSB 1260, a property tax reform bill under consideration by the legislature. Roll call vote. All voting aye. Motion carried.

Resolution 2953 opposing Alliant Energy rate increase and joining as an intervener was opened for discussion.

Councilperson Carlson expressed concerns that not only do residents have to pay this increase for their home, they also have to help fund the increase to the city.

Councilperson Bellrichard stated he doesn't want to pay but is not sure this is the venue to fight it. He needs more knowledge about the reasons for this increase. Believe private customers should if they have the confidence to fight it.

Councilperson Johnson stated it is concerning that 1 year after an election vote to explore the possibility of a public electric utility that Alliant proposes a rate increase of this magnitude. Believes it is very disingenuous of Alliant.

Councilperson Bergan stated it was very publicly stated during the discussions regarding municipalization how much Alliant would increase rates over the next few years.

Councilperson Schissel feels we are trying to tell a business how to run their company. The IUB will make this decision based on information from Alliant. Most likely Alliant and the IUB will come to agreement somewhere in-between. Rate increases are a necessity in any business.

Justin Faus, Alliant Energy, stated the cumulative increase over the last 10 years has been 2 or 3%. Though one year there was approximately a 7% increase, during six years of that time there was a price freeze.

Further, he clarified the increase is to the base charges only. It doesn't not affect transmission charges or other components of the bill. It is not an increase on the entire bill.

Increase is for wind energy investment which will result in long term benefits for lower fuel costs and production tax credits.

Motion by Johnson, second by Hadley, to approve Resolution 2953 as presented. Roll call vote. Voting aye: Johnson, Hadley, Luse, Bergan, Carlson. Voting nay: Bellrichard, Schissel. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned on motion.



Wanda Hemesath, MMC
City Clerk, Tr